

Mackay informed me that he had frequently seen this nuchal white patch well developed in the female. I trust that Mr. Gurdon Trumbull will soon conclude his scholarly article on 'Our Scoters,' with a description of this species in all stages of plumage.—LOUIS B. BISHOP, M. D., *New Haven, Conn.*

The Masked Duck (*Nomonyx dominicus*) in the Lower Rio Grande Valley, Texas.—There is a female specimen of the Masked Duck in the United States Department of Agriculture collection, which was killed by William Lloyd five miles north of Brownsville, Texas, on July 22, 1891. In his field notes the collector states that several others were seen at the same place, and a local hunter killed a male in the vicinity. He also feels quite positive that ducks seen in a fresh water pond near Matamoras, Mexico, on Sept. 8, were of the same species. The occurrence of this tropical duck in southern Texas is probably more than casual, and a careful search among the numerous bayous would undoubtedly bring to light more specimens.—A. K. FISHER, *Washington, D. C.*

Lincoln Salt Lake and the Occurrence of *Strepsilas interpres*.—Local ornithologists are considerably interested in the occurrence of the Turnstone (*Strepsilas interpres*) in this State. Three were shot at Lincoln Salt Lake on the 25th of May of this year. These were secured by Mr. W. D. Hunter of the Department of Taxidermy, and were placed by him in the State Museum. This is the first authentically reported occurrence of this bird in Nebraska. So far as we can learn it is not reported for any of our neighboring States.

It may be of interest to note that within the last three years the basin of Salt Creek has been artificially dammed, and the water set back so as to form a saline lake about two miles long and one mile wide. Here during the springtime are found great numbers of Gulls, Terns, Ducks, Geese, Waders and Water-birds of all sorts. The Lincoln Gun Club has bought the privileges of this lake, otherwise there would be a continual fusilade kept up against the flocks of birds which hover there. There are but few lakes or marshy places in semi-arid regions to entice Water-birds, and any one could, by indiscriminate shooting, destroy large numbers of them.

Possibly the salt water of this artificial lake provided food and familiar conditions for these birds which tempted them to linger here in their flight.—ERWIN H. BARBOUR, *University of Nebraska, Lincoln, Nebr.*

A Sora caught by a Mussel.—When hunting in the marshes in this vicinity, September 3, 1894, Mr. Joseph D. Clarke noticed a Sora (*Porzana carolina*) hopping along and trying hard to fly. His dog finally captured the bird. It had a "freshwater clam" attached to one toe, being firmly caught by the bivalve. The poor bird in its efforts to release itself had